

WEARY WAITING FOR THE SPRING.

By WILLIAM HOWE WALLACE.
"Loving for the May" — "Song."
1.
Wear, weary, weary waiting
For the joyous wild-bird's wing :
For the sheet of unchained waters ;
For the coming of the Spring :
For the glory of the Spring !
11.
Wear, weary, weary waiting
For the laughter of the leaves—
Kissed with soft and boundless laughter
By the South-wind in the eyes,
In the crimson-tinted eve !

Then the moon will fearless wander
Through her company of stars
Gleaming with silver and gold,
On their silver-iced cars ;
On their angel-guarded cars.

19.
Then the Earth will, slumber-folded,
Dream away in still delight;
Dream of all her ancient splendors;
Dream until the morning's light.
Morning's wide, imperious light !

20.
Wear, weary, weary waiting
For the morn of the birds,
Music fit to make a bridal;
With a poet's sweetest words;
With a poet's holiest words.

VI.
Wear, weary, weary waiting
For the morn of the maturing hours;
For the dawning of my daughters,
Margarita, Agnes shouting
In a victory of flowers ;
In an epithalamion of flowers !

VII.
Wear, weary, weary waiting
For the loves in the glen
Folded in their young love's Eden
Far away from cold-eyed men,
Mammum's hard, cold-hearted men !

1.
Come, O come, then soul of flowers !
Quickly bird and blossom bring !
Or the ice on yonder rill—
Hear us then, thou lingering Spring !
Inhale-breathing, sacred Spring !

1.
Triumph !—Triumph !—Lo ! a thunder
On the South-side of the hill ;
Triumph !—Triumph !—There's a crashing
Of the ice on yonder rill ;
Spring is here !

1.
Spring—land Nature's shining Angel !
Then hast come to prisoned worth—
Back the stone of roller rolling
From the sepulchre of Earth—
Giving light and life to earth !

— N. Y. Jour. of Commerce.

HORSE-RACING IN ALGERIA.

From "The Crescent and French Crusaders" By G. L. INMAN.

New York : Derby & Jackson.]
The races which came off here on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of October, formed an extremely interesting exhibition : it was interesting in several points of view : it brought before us the government stud, composed of about twenty of the most beautiful animals eyes ever foaled on it. It collected from far and near innumerable Arab tribes, and finally showed us all that is exciting in the desert world of war.

In these races the government has one object in view—an improvement in the native breed of horses ; the encouragement is a handsome premium presented to the winners by the governor's lady.

I was in the Atlas mountains when the news reached me, that the 27th had been fixed on for the race, and I wasted no time in returning to the town. Had I not been apprised, however, that it was to be something more than its name indicated, I should have been one of the last to give any countenance to it ; for horse-racing is such an odious feature of English society, every American should guard against its popularity at home. In fact, railroads and new modes of warfare have entirely superseded the necessity of Europeans raising animals of great speed, while those who wish to improve the beauty or strength of the beast, can do it without any of those painful adjuncts, those disgusting scenes, foolish boasting, and the vice, which, I have always heard, characterizes such exhibitions in Great Britain. The weather was propitious, and as the hour drew nigh when the curtain was to be lifted on the more orderly portion of the drama, one might have fancied that he had gone back to the time of tournaments : for there were thronging the way, all that was brilliant, and gorgous, and fanciful, and even grotesque, in costume, and all that was dashing, fearless, spirited, and graceful, in equestrianism : every nation appeared to be represented, both on foot and on horseback, and bright Moorish eyes flashed over the scene from every point of view.

The affair was to take place on a large plain about half a league from the city, bounded on one side by the Sahel hills, now whitened by Arab tents, and on the other by the sea. There, a long, handsome, covered gallery had been erected and decorated with flags, and a large pavilion in the centre for the governor-general and his family, his suite and invited guests ; this became a particular point of attraction, not only on account of the distinguished persons presiding, and the beauty of many of the ladies, but the presence of a number of native chiefs, and General Yusuf. I was to have been favored with an invitation to a seat there, but owing to the illness of our consul, was forced to take a humbler though not less convenient position.

A little before one o'clock the governor-general, with a brilliant staff, arrived and took his place in the tribune, before which the *Spahis* were drilling to occupy a position on the extreme right. Soon after, eighteen hundred Arab horsemen were seen moving majestically over the plain, with streaming banners, with barboures, dissonant music, and with crimson and white drapery falling in neglected folds about their gilded trapping ; they too, proceeded to the right.

At the appointed time the government stud appeared in the circle, and so gaudy was every one of the charming troop, I hardly dare affirm that he was not covered with satin. Each was led separately by two grooms, who, having long red *coups* attached to the animal's bridle, were enabled to keep at a distance from him, and thus leave to the spectators an unobstructed view of his elegant proportions, of which he, in every instance, seemed conscious and proud : it was indeed one of the most remarkable affairs that has ever fallen under my notice.

It may be well to state, that this stud is made up, principally, of horses brought from Arabia and Syria ; one of the number, however, is the splendid creature presented to Napoleon by the Pasha of Egypt, and is a descendant of Mahomet's celebrated mare.

Most of these were purchased in 1846, when it was discovered that the fine Arab breed was nearly extinct, owing to the wars that for many years had desolated the country, and to the ignorance, carelessness, and indifference to the subject, of a great portion of the native tribes.

After the exhibition of the "stud," a race came off between five European horses, which made the circuit twice, or 3,750 feet. This excited more interest than the subsequent one, as there were engaged in it a fine animal belonging to General Yusuf, which had recently won at Blida, and another that had been the conqueror in 1855 ; and there was some movement intermixed with it, arising from the fact that the fastest in the ring was named *El Habet* (in Arabic, the hog) ; for when he was in advance, the natives would cry out, *El Habet ! El Habet !* (the hog ! the hog !) El Habet, four years old, was the winner, making the two rounds in 4 minutes, 46 seconds. Stakes 2,000 francs, given by the emperor.

The second course was also European. Seven horses were engaged, making the circuit only once, or 4,375 feet. It was won by the Arab, three years old, which ran the distance in 3 minutes 3 seconds. Stakes 1,000 francs, given by the town of Algiers.

The subsequent rounds, including those of the two

* The Spahis are native cavalry in government pay. They are armed with a short matchlock, which they carry before them, but rest on the right thigh.

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following days, were more attractive to the stranger, since they were, with one exception, made solely by the Arab. The first of these was the *Cours des Aghas*, of which there were three divisions ; the second, the *Cours des Chevaux de passe* (i.e., in four divisions) ; the third, the course between the Aghas who had won ; the fourth, between the winners of the *passe* course. In these trials, in the skill of the riders, in the speed of some favorite jockeys, or in the success of a personal friend, the natives must have felt the deepest interest ; but I can say, that of a hundred males in my vicinity, not one lost for a moment his native dignity ; the females, however, were more excited, and many were the little feet to be seen peeping out under the ample trowsers, as their fair owners sprang up on the seats behind me.

The starting of the horses, when the signal was given, was like a flash of light ; their stopping, still more astonishing ; but the first could be easily accounted for, if one noticed that the rider's spurs consisted of a single spike, nearly six inches in length. When at the height of their speed, there was, as you can fancy, something in their appearance, unique and aristocratic, though in reality it was the reverse. One young man, who was twice for his brother, the *Caid* of the subdivision of Medea, lay low on his horse's neck, so as not to gather the wind ; but his light, white hair was afloat behind him like a cloud : he made the distance in 1m. 50s.

On the second day there were thirty-six different divisions of Arab tribes—*Cours des Cauds et Chefs des tribus*. On the third day there was a grand review of the *Goum*, the Arab *fanfanas*, and a race in the fields between native and European horses. The distance of this last course was 64 miles—the stakes 2,000 francs—the winner, the *Caid* of Medea, mentioned above, and the time 12m. 50s. The second prize was also awarded to a mare of Medea—making three prizes carried off by the Arabs of that of mountainous district.

As Marshal Randon was ill on the last day, the review of the troops fell to General Yusuf, one of the most renowned cavaliers and warriors of the day ; and no one could have done the honors of the occasion with more grace or personal satisfaction, apparently. But I must hasten to the grand *feast*—the *fanfanas*, which a few lines will suffice to dispatch.

The fanfanas, are what we should call a sham-fight. An equal number of tribes were arranged on each side of the hippodrome, will consider them for a moment in actual hostilities. Two or three of the most daring start from the ranks, sweep over the intermediate space, and when near enough to the opposite party, discharge their muskets, wheel and fly and reload as they go ; but they are not sure of escaping, for the fleetest horses of the enemy, are sent out in pursuit ; the wind could hardly be swifter than they, their nostrils are expanded, and they seem winged with the ferocity and energy of their foes, who, taking deadly aim, as they approach the pursued, fire, turn as they fire, and retreat, and all a mad headlong speed, that is actually appalling. Now a hundred runs into the arena, and amid dust, confusion, and the rattle of musketry, urge their panting braves to the task of making the pay dear for their temerity. It is at once evident, however, that their safety is in the velocity with which they can regain the shelter of the main body, for double their number are on their flank, in their rear—they are nearly surrounded and lost ; but the war-hoof is heard, and in an instant the field is covered with a cloud of desperate combatants—fifteen hundred Arabs leap to the final charge : a fearful encounter ensues ; the noise, the confusion, the strife is redoubled ; the weaker defeated, are flying for the desert ; but, the bugle sounds a recall, and the contest is ended. The tribes being again collected under their respective chiefs, they all advance to the pavilion, preceded by a fanciful array of Aghas, Caidis, and standard bearers. There the preceding officer, representative of the Governor-General, is saluted by them, in a manner indicative of their entire subordination. They lower their banners simultaneously before him, and amid the roar of firearms, which seems to be the only note they give to every joy, to every triumph, and to every ward break can possibly mark the success of the enterprise.

Many of the Arab chiefs, brought together on this occasion, were robed in costly and picturesque costumes, while the trappings of their horses, their saddle, bridles, stirrups, as well as the scabbards of their swords (which they swing round the neck, and outside of the left arm), were heavily encased with gold. One tribe had their horses covered with a striped silk mantle, that fell about them nearly to the ground, but the men themselves you would have sworn to be American Indians ; for each one wore a broad brimmed palm leaf hat (*medjoul*) with a very lofty crown, entirely covered with short black ostrich feathers, which, together with his dark skin, and horaceous hanging about him like a black skin, gave him in every respect the air of one of the highly adorned red men of the forest.

I have said that in these races, the government has in view an improvement in the native breed of horses ; but this is not all that it does to this end. It maintains a stud in each of the provinces—one at Blida, one at Mostaganem, and one at Aïtelli. Every Spring these are distributed throughout the country at depots where the natives and colonists bring their *jessuits*. Those that are accepted have their age, color, size, pedigree, name of owner, and tribe or district to which he belongs, recorded in the most popular manner : and as the offspring of these unions fetch a higher price than any other, it is the strongest possible inducement for the Arab to avail himself of this gratuity. There are also annual "agricultural fairs," at which premiums are given for the best horses, mares, stallions, &c. ; in fact, last year, by a decree of the Minister of War, 12,000 francs were more appropriately for this object.

The study of the Algerian or Barbary horse has occupied some of the ablest minds ; for, as is often said, he is more than the servant, he is the companion of the Arab ; and though there is a doubt about his being of the pure Arab breed, he is admitted to have descended in a direct line from the Numidian race, so celebrated in ancient times. He is, indeed, the only horse used here by the French troops, as it is found that he endures the heat of the climate, the fatigues and privations of war, far better than the European ; and being at the same time much surer of foot, is valued particularly in Africa.

"To respond to every demand made upon him," say the French, "it is only necessary for him to be a little larger."

The Algerian horse is shorter and plumper than the Morocco or English ; all that we at the moment have described, were small, and of a conformation that indicated at once lightness and vigor.

It was estimated last year that the number of horses in Algeria was 150,000.

THE WOMAN WHO NEVER EATS.

For a twelve month past, Mrs. Hayes, of the town of Chester, Warren county, N. Y., has been made known to the public, through the medium of the press, as a very wonderful woman. The community was surprised that she had lived two years without eating.

She was fed by two grooms, who never touch her, and though she had lived two years without eating, it was a very great marvel. But one greater could easily be imagined, viz. a woman who could live two years without talking. But in the absence of the latter phenomenon, all *gods* were satisfied themselves with Mrs. Hayes. She was not only an incomparable puzzle, but an end-and-out puzzle. Much of her time was spent in a state of torpor. She talked much of God and religion, and set herself up for a prophetess. Her sustenance she did not fail to attribute to the agency of the Almighty in intimation of her wondrous natural nature. Those about her were over-driven.

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in and week out, the result being their permanent satiety that she ate nothing. Thousands of people flocked to see her, and went away with the impression that there existed neither more nor less of deception than of desperation. The witness of her condition was as spectacular and trustworthy. Who could suppose that the poor woman could herself deceive ? The idea was preposterous. Who could a woman away up in Warren county, among the everlasting Adirondacks, gain by cheating people into the matter of her bread and butter ? The thought out of the question. Did any people eat another's live long without food, he was informed that she did live, and was not that enough ? At length, however, this impressive dispensation came to an end. A Committee was found of little faith. Mrs. Hayes had seen many previous Committees from her practice, after long and patient watching, filled with astonishment and conviction. Consequently her confidence waned strong. She desired never to be without a Committee to observe her case, and testify of her miraculous preservation. The other day six gentlemen were summoned to her bedside for that purpose, who were to remain with her, two at a time, day and night, for twenty-one days, when, as she informed them, a great and miraculous change would take place in her condition.

A change, great, but not miraculous, occurred in less time. Her watchers caught her in the act of eating. In fact they saw her regaling herself on meat and crackers ! It is unnecessary to say what followed. The explanation of the imposture could not be deferred. Certificates, testimonials, and facts all blew up together.

There is a strong likeness to be observed throughout the whole family of impostures. Whenever an impossible human is proposed as an excuse of the public credulity, any one who ventures to suggest a doubt is put down by facts. There are hosts who have seen every miracle, with their own eyes. To question the phenomena is to impeach their veracity. Do you suggest the impossibility, for example, of a table dancing with a polka in a chair, you are put down by a shower of facts. A dozen respectable individuals tell you they saw it.

The truth is that in all such cases there is nothing so unreliable as facts. The facts adduced are not facts at all. Whether those who assert them believe their own statement, is a question hardly worth deciding. If they do, they are to be pitied. What became of all the facts in the case of Mrs. Hayes ? Dispersed in an instant by the apparition of crackers and cold corned beef.—N. Y. Times.

THE TRANS-ATLANTIC BALLOON.

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